

REMARKS

By the present amendment, independent claim 1 has been amended to further clarify the concepts of the present invention. Specifically, the fixing agent for the coating solution for forming the ink jet recording paper as claimed has been defined as a graft copolymer of polyvinyl alcohol and polydiallyldimethyl-ammonium chloride.

It is submitted that these amendments to claim 1 are helpful in distinguishing the subject claims over the cited prior art and do not raise new issues which would require further consideration and/or search. In addition, it is submitted that such amendments place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal. Furthermore, no additional claims are presented without cancelling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims. In view of the above, it is submitted that entry of the above amendments is in order and such is respectfully requested.

Initially, as set forth on page two of the Action, applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication that the rejection of the claims under the first paragraph of 35 USC § 112 as not being enabled by the specification as filed has been withdrawn.

Claims 1, 4 and 6 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the previously cited patent to Koide et al in view of the newly cited patent to Neimoller et

al. In addition, claims 1, 2 and 5 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the patent to Koide et al in view of the patent to Neimoller et al and the previously cited European patent publication to Koji et al. In making these rejections, the teachings of the Koide et al and Koji et al patent publications were relied upon for the reasons of record and the Neimoller et al patent was cited for teaching a recording layer of a cationic polymer dye fixing agent which may be a copolymer of polyvinyl alcohol and polydiallyldimethyl-ammonium chloride. It was concluded that it would be obvious to use this fixing agent in the composition according to the Koide et al patent.

Further, it was indicated that, for overcoming the subject rejections, applicants have demonstrated criticality for the lower end point of the range of the ratio of brightening agent to polymer fixing agent when the fixing agent is defined as a graft copolymer of polyvinyl alcohol and polydiallyldimethyl-ammonium chloride in Table 1 of the subject specification. (It would appear that the examiner meant to refer to Table 3 rather than Table 1.) Thus, it was suggested that, for overcoming the above art rejections, claim 1 be amended to define that the fixing agent is a graft copolymer of polyvinyl alcohol and polydiallyldimethyl-ammonium chloride. Reconsideration of this rejection in view of the following comments is respectfully requested.

As can be noted from the amendments to claim 1 herein, the suggestion contained in the Action regarding amendments to claim 1 have been adopted. Specifically, claim 1

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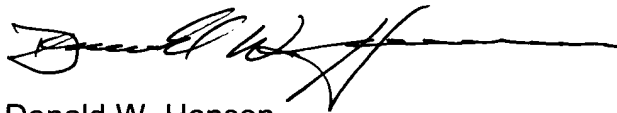
has been amended to recite that a graft copolymer of polyvinyl alcohol and polydiallyldimethyl-ammonium chloride (B) is included as a cationic polymer fixing agent. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and allowance of claims 1-2 and 4-6 as amended over the cited patent publications are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the subject application is now in condition for allowance and early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

In the event this paper is not timely filed, the undersigned hereby petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for this extension may be charged to Deposit Account No. 01-2340, along with any other additional fees which may be required with respect to this paper.

Respectfully submitted,

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